

G.A.I.C.
February 16, 2005

Attendees: Rod Armstrong, James Lamphere, Gwen Thorpe, Jim Langtry, Shannon Ideus, Trish Owen, Brian Pillard, Doug Thomas, Rita Dey, Don Herz, Michelle Zuhlke, and Terry Lowe

Approval of Minutes

There were a couple of changes to the minutes from the meeting in January. (Not too bad considering Terry created the minutes from memory). Correction 1: top of page two, Internet Nebraska should be Nebraska on-line. Correction 2: middle of page two, in addition to LB490, LB565 Land Records Modernization Act was also discussed. Doug stated that these changes would be made and posted. The minutes were then approved unanimously.

Statistics

Web Trends (NT Stats)

The NT server was up about 900,000 from the previous month, up to 8.5 million (the fourth highest month). The mainframe was at 1.5 million (an all time high) of which the Assessor was over one million. The IMS server reached just over one million this month. CJIS had an all time high of 299,000. Accident Reports were at an all time high of 33,140 down loaded. The snow most definitely has an impact on that number. There were over 11 million hits last month when you add all the platforms together.

On the user session side we had the second highest month ever with 391,000 user sessions. It was a very big month, lots of people out on the web site.

E-PAYMENTS

Gross collections of 173,500, a net of about 170,000. All but \$40,000 of these were property taxes. The \$40,000 was distributed amongst the other areas.

We have gotten an application from Ken Smith for e-payments to be made through the garages. Currently they take cash, check, and credit cards (proximity cards) that are attached to a data base of prepaid passes that are drawn from an account. This would be made available on the net. People could pay a minimum of \$25 to \$100 on the proximity card. The interface will be directly written into the escrow data base of the vendor that has that. People can pay as they need it and will be able to view their balances on-line. They will go in through My InterLinc with a unique identifier, password, and their card number.

For moving the Property Tax payments on the new payment processor it is between Wells Fargo and EPOS, everything is ready to go on our end. They gave us the new account numbers but they have not flipped the switch yet. As soon as they do flip it, it will go from the current \$30 flat fee to a 2.5% fee. As for now we continue to process in the \$30 mode. Terry Adams is not pushing too hard for the switch because it is possible we would see a reduction in the proceeds coming in from that avenue. We feel this is due to the fact that less people will use the application because of the percentage fee creating a high convenience fee amount.

If we were to get E-checks going we need to keep in mind that there is more risk. The money may not actually be behind a check, unlike credit card payments that show up right away. If one were to default on a payment made via credit card it would be between the bank and the card holder, not us. The convenience fee relieves us of any questionable situations. Though, even with E-checks our risk is somewhat minimized because we can always re-bill someone if they don't pay., or show their payment as outstanding again.

New Web Based Applications

Applicant Tracking

The first month we had 29,928 hits on the job listing page. The total number of hits on the Applicant Tracking System was 128,000. 1,370 completed applications have come in. Of those, only 64 did not have e-mail. That means we did not have to print 1,306 letters and envelopes, stuff all the envelopes and post mark them.

At the closing of a posted job letters are sent out via e-mail. Almost 1,600 applications have been taken in the first month, there are 285 being worked on right now. Some of the jobs, according to agency reports, are getting more applications than they did when it was in paper form. Not only is there less handling, but there are more applicants. All ratings are table driven and done automatically, including EEOC issues. Personnel is also be able to view how the process is going as applications come in.

There is still some tracking and adjusting done manually to protect against fabricated information. If point ratings are changed manually the original applicant numbers are still there. When the points are modified a reason has to be given as to why. So there is a good audit trail for these modifications too.

The job requisitions that the city and county will start submitting to Personnel will also be fully electronic. The applicant results will also come back electronically. The state has reviewed the application and it is compliant with JAWS, the browser/reader for the people that are visually challenged.

Appointments

Lori is working on the appointments. They are on council agendas to be forwarded until the 28th. The appointments are Michelle Zuhlke, Rita Dey, and Trish Owen. A replacement is being sought out for Jim Shultz. He has resigned. Corrie has a list of potential people. Larry Anderson, a retiree from Allstate, is who she is going to approach. Doug will check with Corrie on the status of Jim Lamphere's re-appointment.

Annual Report

There is an annual report that goes out to the Mayor, City Council and County Board. Doug asked that anyone with any information they want included in the report to let him know. The draft report will be ready next month or in April.

Legislative Actions

Jim recapped from last month LB490, which states, for security reasons, geographic information data bases can be exempted from public records laws. Local agency can set up a structure for access and cost recovery. The bill was submitted by Senator Thompson in the Omaha area. The intent is unknown. At this point there are more questions than answers, such as, what is meant by 'security', and 'geo special data bases'. More information will be gathered at the public hearing to take place later in the afternoon. Jim will be attending as a representative for the Nebraska GIS LIS Association.

LB565, the Land Records Modernization Act. There are two parts, one is a filing fee and one is a documentary stamp tax for an additional \$.50/1000, right now it is \$1.75/1000. For the first five years one part of it goes to Register of Deeds for their records. They want to bring their records up to standard for protection purposes, and make them more accessible. The other part of the fee will go to the Land Records Modernization Fund, of which 50% will go back to the Counties through formula based on size and population and how much money they take in. 25% will go to the Grant Fund, and the additional 25% will go back to the State, which will be used for supporting services to try to enhance cooperation and sharing.

There was discussion about these two bills. It was stated that, from a government perspective, with exception of Douglas, Lancaster, and probably Sarpy counties, these bills are beneficial. It's less beneficial to them because their taxpayers have already incurred the costs to modernize their Deeds Offices. From a societal perspective this is another cost. The relators object LB565 for this reason.

Other Business

There was no new business.

Next Meeting

March 16, 2005